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**THORPE,
NORTH &
WESTERN L.L.P.**
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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW,
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09/617376

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:
BEFORE PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 list of 12 references submitted for consideration.
- ☒ Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- ☐ All English translations of each non-English reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- ☐ Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.

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- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- ☐ Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the identified prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

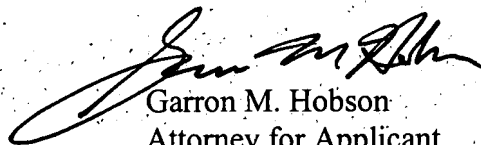
In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- ☐ Promptness Certification.
- ☒ Check No. 11430 in the amount of \$²⁴⁰(amount in § 1.17(p)) constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ Petition for Consideration and Check No. _____ in the amount of \$(amount in § 1.17(i)(1)) constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0100 of the undersigned.

Dated this 1 day of Feb, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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